UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/S-19/28
26 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Nineteenth special session
Agenda item 8

OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Note verbale dated 19 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit the attached letter from Mr. Imata Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Chairman of the South Pacific Forum.

The Permanent Representative would request that the attached letter be disseminated as a United Nations document of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

ANNEX

President
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

June 17, 1997

Excellency,

I have the honor to write to you in my capacity as Chairman of the South Pacific Forum, and in my capacity as host for the Second Multilateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific.

I have been requested by the countries and territories represented at that meeting to transmit the Majuro Declaration through you to the Member States of the United Nations, and to request that the Declaration be brought to the attention of the 19th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I therefore have the honor to attach herewith the text of the Majuro Declaration and the letter of transmittal from the Chairman of the Conference, and to respectfully request that this be issued as an official United Nations document under the appropriate agenda items.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Imata Kabua
President

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017

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APPENDIX

The *Second* Multilateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific

Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands
10 - 13 June 1997

His Excellency President Imata Kabua
Office of the President
Majuro
Republic of Marshall Islands

13 June 1997

Dear Mr President,

I have the honour to refer to the Second Multilateral High-Level Conference on the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the central and western Pacific held at Majuro from 10 - 13 June 1997.

Your Excellency will recall that the Forum heads of Government at the 27th South Pacific Forum had called for such a Conference to be convened and endorsed the initiative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to convene a ministerial meeting to help advance this process. On 13 June 1997, the Conference adopted the Majuro Declaration and requested me, in my capacity as Chairman of the Conference, to transmit the text of the declaration to you in your capacity as Chairman of the South Pacific Forum.

I therefore have the honour to attach herewith the Majuro Declaration. I would respectfully draw your Excellency's attention to operative paragraph 12 of the Declaration by which the Conference requested the Government of the Marshall Islands, as host of the Conference and Chairman of the South Pacific Forum, to bring the Declaration to the attention of the 19th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be convened in new York in June 1997 to review the implementation of Agenda 21.

I remain, Mr President,

Yours sincerely,

Satya N. Nandan
Chairman of the Conference

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ATTACHMENT

SECOND MULTILATERAL HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
10-13 June 1997

MAJURO DECLARATION

The States, territories and fishing entities represented by Ministers and senior officials at the Second Multilateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific meeting at Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, from 10-13 June 1997,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention") and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 4 August 1995 ("the Implementing Agreement"),

Recalling also that the Multilateral High Level Conference on South Pacific Tuna Fisheries, held at Honiara, Solomon Islands, from 5-9 December 1994, reached a common understanding on the need for sustainable development of the tuna resources of the region, the importance of fishing responsibly in the region, the importance of effective enforcement in the conservation and management of tuna stocks and the need for effective cooperation between coastal States and territories and distant water fishing nations,

Recalling further that South Pacific Forum Leaders at the 26th South Pacific Forum held at Madang, Papua New Guinea in 1995 considered that comprehensive regional fisheries management arrangements and a structure consistent with the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks should be developed as a matter of urgency and should be based on a precautionary approach to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the region's tuna resources,

Recalling also that South Pacific Forum Leaders at the 27th South Pacific Forum held at Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, from 3-5 September 1996 called upon the Forum Fisheries Committee to continue with urgency its development of comprehensive arrangements for the sustainable management of the region's fisheries across the full geographical range of the stocks, including the high seas, and endorsed the initiative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to convene a ministerial meeting to help advance this process,

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Bearing in mind the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of 1992, in particular Agenda 21, and the importance placed by the international community on sustainable utilization of living marine resources,

Determined to ensure the effective conservation and management and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks of the western and central Pacific throughout the range of their distribution,

Conscious of the need to avoid adverse impacts on the marine environment of the region, preserve its biodiversity, maintain the integrity of the marine ecosystem and minimize the risk of long term or irreversible effects of fishing operations,

Mindful of the importance of the highly migratory fish stocks of the western and central Pacific to the sustainable development and prosperity of developing States and territories in the region,

Recognizing the sovereign rights of coastal States to explore and exploit, and their duty to conserve and manage the living marine resources within their exclusive economic or fisheries zones and the right of States for their nationals to fish on the high seas in accordance with international law and their duty to take, or to cooperate with other States in taking, such measures as may be necessary for the conservation of the living resources of the high seas,

Recognizing further the need for special assistance for Pacific island developing States and territories to enable them to participate effectively in the conservation, management and sustainable use of the highly migratory fish stocks of the region,

Convinced of the urgent need to improve knowledge about the stocks and fisheries of the region and to develop a framework for the elaboration and implementation of conservation and management measures in the region,

1. ***Declare*** their commitment to establish a mechanism for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks of the region in accordance with the Convention and the Implementing Agreement;

2. ***Decide*** to cooperate effectively in the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks of the region throughout their range in order to ensure their long-term sustainability, in accordance with the principles contained in the Convention and the Implementing Agreement, including through application of the precautionary approach widely;

3. ***Decide*** to ensure that the fishing activities in the region are conducted in a manner fully consistent with the respective rights, obligations and responsibilities of coastal States and territories and other States and fishing entities fishing on the high seas in the region under the Convention and the Implementing Agreement;

4. ***Declare*** their commitment to ensuring that conservation and management measures for highly migratory fish stocks in areas under national jurisdiction and those for the high seas are compatible;

5. ***Declare*** their commitment to collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fisheries activities in accordance with annex 1 of the Implementing Agreement, as well as information from relevant research programmes;

6. ***Declare*** their commitment to cooperate in monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in the region in pursuance of the objectives set out in paragraph 2;

7. ***Declare*** their commitment to provide financial, scientific and technical assistance to Pacific island developing States and territories to enhance their ability to conserve, manage and sustainably use the highly migratory fish stocks of the region;

8. ***Decide*** to set an overall time-frame of three years from June 1997 in which to negotiate and establish the mechanism referred to in paragraph 1;

9. ***Decide*** to hold further sessions of the Conference in 1998 and 1999 to address, inter alia, the following matters:

(a) species and stocks to be covered by the arrangement;

(b) geographical area to be covered;

(c) membership and participation by observers;

(d) mechanisms for decision making and procedures for the settlement of disputes;

(e) mechanisms for the collection and exchange of fisheries data, scientific research and stock assessment;

(f) determination of conservation and management measures, including the application of the precautionary approach;

(g) relationship with other regional and global fisheries organizations and arrangements;

(h) procedures for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement; and

(i) financial and administrative arrangements;

10. ***Decide also*** to hold consultations on certain technical matters during the intersessional period;

11. ***Request*** the Chairman of the Conference to transmit this Declaration to the Chairman of the South Pacific Forum;

12. ***Further request*** the Government of the Marshall Islands, as host of the Conference and Chairman of the South Pacific Forum, to bring this Declaration to the

attention of the 19th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be convened in New York in June 1997 to review the implementation of Agenda 21;

13. Express their appreciation to the Government of the Marshall Islands for hosting the Conference.

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
13 June 1997